

1 Foraging specialisms influence space
2 use and movement patterns of the
3 European eel *Anguilla anguilla*.

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5 **Final version accepted by Hydrobiologia**

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Abstract

A fixed receiver array was used to examine the movement patterns and space use of the European eel *Anguilla anguilla* in an oligotrophic Irish lake between July and September. We assessed home range size, temporal change in spatial behaviour and activity patterns of broad headed (n=11) and narrow headed (n=8) morphotypes. Broad-headed individuals displayed a larger home range (mean KUD₉₅ (km²):0.296 ± 0.04 S.E.) in comparison to narrow-headed individuals (mean KUD₉₅ (km²):0.143± 0.02 S.E.). Eel activity was strongly dependent on light conditions. Narrow-headed individuals' movement peaks occurred at dawn and dusk in comparison to broad-headed individuals which exhibited a more stable movement pattern throughout night and into dawn, suggesting that narrow-headed eels are more crepuscular in nature whereas broad-headed individuals are more nocturnal. Lunar phase period also influenced eel movement within the lake. These results provide valuable insights into the spatio-temporal distribution of yellow eels in a lake system, demonstrating that individuality in foraging behaviour has direct influence on spatial patterns.

Keywords: Anguillidae, Home range, foraging specialisms, morph, diel patterns

Introduction

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Understanding how animals utilise their habitat in both space and time provide insights into the ecological, competitive and environmental forces that shape their behaviour. Increasingly, telemetry is used to quantify spatial (e.g. home range) and temporal (e.g. diel phase) activity patterns to evaluate individual distribution (Lucas & Baras, 2001; Cooke et al., 2012). These patterns encapsulate movement behaviours associated with fulfilling ecological needs (feeding, shelter etc.) and are regulated by predictable variation in the environment. Home range is an area over which an animal regularly travels (Burt, 1943; Powell & Mitchell 2012). A home range is considered to be a decision-making process shaped by natural selection, increasing the contribution of resources to fitness, which are spatially distributed in a habitat (Mitchell and Powell 2004). Thus home range represents interplay between the environment and an animal's understanding of that environment (Borger et al. 2008; Powell 2000).

Fish body size, and thus energetic demands, can markedly influence home range size (Jetz et al., 2004; Killen et al., 2007). Increased home range of larger individuals is associated with a behavioural response to optimise foraging for the elevated energy demands (Dahlgren & Eggleston 2000; Marshall et al., 2011). Home range size and activity patterns can also be dependent on diet and the foraging tactic employed, for example carnivores typically occupy larger home ranges than herbivores (Peters, 1986).

An important driver of fish distribution is that of feeding opportunity, with fish responding to resource type and or availability within a given habitat (Clark & Levy 1988; Jackson et al., 2011). Individual specialisation in diet is relatively common among wild populations of many species (Bolnick et al., 2003). Individual feeding specialisations can be temporally stable and associated with the occurrence of discrete morphotypes (Skulason & Smith 1995). Such foraging specialisms seem to be particularly common in fishes found in post-glacial lakes (Garduno-Paz et al., 2010; Siwertsson et al., 2013). Interspecific differences in head morphology of fish are known to reflect differences in feeding behaviour (Adams et al., 1998, Kristjansson et al., 2002) and are generally a result of consistent individual differences in foraging and diet over time.

The European eel (*Anguilla anguilla* L.) occupies a wide range of aquatic systems and habitat types, including fresh, brackish and salt water (Moriarty & Dekker, 1997). If drainage basins have natural or artificial lakes with adequate passage for migrating juveniles and

100 adults, they will represent important growth habitat (Laffaille et al., 2004) producing high
101 numbers of silver eels (Tesch, 2003). Determining space use by eels in lake systems is thus
102 important for an understanding of their ecology and ultimately conservation management in
103 such systems. The existence of foraging specialisms amongst individuals of eel in freshwater
104 populations is reasonably well known (Lammens & Visser, 1989; Ide et al., 2011) and such
105 specialisms seem to be associated with the dichotomous description of “broad-headed” and
106 “narrow-headed” individuals (Lammens & Visser, 1989; Provan & Reynolds, 2000; Ide et
107 al., 2011). These studies have shown that independent of body length, broad-headed
108 specimens tend to be piscivorous and narrow-headed individuals feed predominately on
109 benthic invertebrates with this discrete variation among individuals being evident in the same
110 locality (Cucherousset et al., 2011; Ide et al., 2011). However, the extent to which the
111 observed morphological variation is associated with behavioural differences other than those
112 linked with feeding is yet to be investigated.

113

114 Information about how they utilise lacustrine habitat is essential to help direct
115 conservation strategies. Despite the length of time eel spend in lacustrine environments, there
116 is little information about home range size and activity patterns in lakes. The first objective of
117 this study was to quantify the spatial distribution of European eel, with a specific focus on
118 home range sizes and activity patterns in a lacustrine habitat. Combining measures of
119 individual head morphology with individual behavioural parameters obtained by tracking
120 movements of individuals using acoustic telemetry, our second objective was to test the
121 hypothesis that individual movement patterns and space use are correlated with differences in
122 morphology and foraging specialisms.

123

124

Methods

125

STUDY AREA & RECEIVER ARRAY

127 Lough Finn is an oligotrophic freshwater lake located adjacent to Fintown, Co. Donegal,
128 Republic of Ireland (54 ° 51.7 N ' 008 ° 8.04' W). The lake is entirely natural, there are no
129 obstructions in vicinity of the outflow so that eel are free to enter and leave the lake. Other
130 fish species present in Lough Finn are, brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), Arctic char (*Salvelinus*
131 *alpinus*) and Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), with no introduced species present. Lough Finn
132 is approximately 1.15km² (115 ha) in size with a mean depth of 11.5m and a maximum depth
133 of 21m. An echosounder linked to a GPS was used to record depths across a series of

134 intersecting transects and these data were used to create a bathymetric map using Arcview
135 GIS.

136 Preliminary tests were undertaken to determine the detection range of acoustic tags
137 and receivers in Lough Finn. Based upon these preliminary detection range estimates, a fixed
138 array of 20 omnidirectional acoustic receivers (69 KHz, Vemco VR2W) was deployed
139 throughout the lake (Fig. 1). Receivers were attached (3 m from the bottom) to a rope riser on
140 a moored anchor system, in 10-15 m depth of water. The receiver configuration allowed for
141 range overlap (see below) and thus allowed tagged fish, that remained in the lake, to be
142 continuously detected throughout the study.

143

144 FISH SAMPLING AND TAGGING

145 Yellow eels were captured using fyke nets on 27 June 2013 and again on 2 July 2013. Nets
146 were set arbitrarily around the lake and fished for a period of 24 h. Each fish was classified
147 using the silvering index of Durif et al. (2005) so as to ensure all individuals tagged were
148 resident and in the growth phase of their life cycle. Individuals in stage I-III were considered
149 suitable for tagging and individuals which were categorised as stage FIV and FV were
150 rejected from the study due to the high possibility of them metamorphosing and beginning
151 downstream spawning migration in the near future. Overall, twenty individuals were tagged
152 with individually coded 69KHz acoustic transmitters (Model LP-7.3, 7.3mm diameter, 18mm
153 length, 1.9g weight in air, 139dB re 1 μ Pa power, Thelma Biotel AS, Trondheim, Norway
154 2013). Acoustic transmitters were programmed to each have an average acoustic transmission
155 repeat cycle of 120s. The mean total length and mass of tagged fish was 498 ± 91.3 mm and
156 227 ± 141.1 g (range: 390-720mm, 90.3-602g). The mean tag to body mass ratio was
157 $1.11 \pm 0.5\%$ (i.e. $<2\%$ as recommended, *sensu* Lucas & Baras, 2000). For the tagging
158 procedure, fish were anesthetized by immersion in a water clove oil solution (0.5mg per litre)
159 until loss of equilibrium. Fish were placed in a v-shaped support and an acoustic transmitter
160 was surgically implanted through a 15mm incision into the peritoneal cavity, and the incision
161 was closed with independent sterile sutures (6-0 ETHILON, Ethicon Ltd, Livingston, UK).
162 Fish were aspirated with 100% lake water throughout the procedure. The entire surgical
163 process took less than 4 minutes. After complete recovery, defined as correct orientation and
164 response to stimuli, fish were released in the location of initial capture. Recent work has
165 demonstrated that this surgical procedure does not adversely affect behaviour of eels
166 (Thorstad et al., 2013).

167

168 DATA ANALYSIS

169

170 *Head shape analysis*

171 Where possible, an equal number of fish from broad and narrow-headed morphs were
172 selected (*sensu* Proman & Reynolds 2000). Overall, twelve broad-headed individuals and
173 eight narrow-headed individuals were tagged with individually coded acoustic transmitters.
174 For each individual fish, head width (HW, to the nearest 0.1 mm) was measured between the
175 outside of the jaw hinges, along with total body length (TL), the ratio HW:TL was calculated
176 for each individual at tagging and subsequently used to assign tagged individuals to either
177 broad (>0.33) or narrow (<0.33) according with previous studies (Lammens & Visser 1989;
178 Proman & Reynolds 2000). To verify that this was an appropriate indicator of head shape we
179 used a model-based clustering approach implemented in the package MCLUST for R (Fraley
180 & Raftery 2009). Lateral view photographs of all fish were taken using a Cannon EOS 350D
181 digital camera for geometric morphometric analysis. For each photograph a reference scale
182 was included to allow the removal of shape change associated with size. Before comparing
183 head shape of the groups a pooled within-group regression of Procrustes co-ordinates on log
184 centroid size was performed. The residuals from this were derived thus providing a measure
185 free from allometric scaling of shape associated with size (Klingenberg, 1998). Nine
186 consistently identifiable landmarks were digitised in two dimensions (Fig.2). Land marks
187 were carefully chosen to represent overall head shape. Principle component analysis was
188 undertaken on Procrustes coordinates (2D coordinates that have been standardised for size
189 and position) of the nine landmarks used to describe head shape. Principle component scores
190 for each individual fish were clustered to allow an objective examination of head shape and
191 assignment to ecological sub-group with clustering software. Two MCLUST models (EII and
192 VII; see Fraley & Rafety 2006 for model descriptors) were fitted to the first four principal
193 component scores of head shape data. The “best” models, representing the most likely
194 number of groups on the basis of head shape, were identified using Bayesian Information
195 Criterion (BIC). The BIC value is the maximised log-likelihood for the model, the data
196 dimensions and the number of model components; the larger BIC, the stronger the support for
197 the model for head shape. The model that could at a minimum discriminate broad and narrow
198 headed eels and had the highest BIC was selected to test accuracy of field classification
199 method. For tagged fish, comparison between the best model with the next best model
200 (resulting in a different number of groups) was undertaken by calculating Δ BIC as the
201 difference in the BIC-values between the best model and the next best model. Following Kass

202 & Raftery (1995) interpretation; $\Delta\text{BIC}>10$ as very strong support, $6<\Delta\text{BIC}<10$ as strong
203 support, $2<\Delta\text{BIC}<6$ as moderate support, and $\Delta\text{BIC}<2$ as equivalent support for the best and
204 the next best model. Statistical analyses were conducted in the R statistical computing
205 package (R Development Core Team, 2014).

206

207 *Acoustic position estimates*

208 We estimated centres of activity (COA) for each fish for an allocated time bin using the mean
209 position algorithm described by Simpfendorfer et al. (2002). R statistical computing language
210 R development Core team (2014) was used to calculate mean latitude and longitude of all
211 detections within each sequential time interval. The resulting set of estimated positions was
212 used for the subsequent analysis. Fish position at each time was based on the averaged
213 positions of the receivers that detected fish during the time interval and weighted by the
214 number of detections at each receiver (Simpfendorfer et al., 2002; Hedger et al., 2008) to
215 provide an estimated location for that time period. To test the assumption on which the centre
216 of activity mean position algorithm is based; that the number of tag detections decreases with
217 increasing distance from a receiver, a tag detection range test was undertaken. Transmitters
218 (Model LP-7.3, 40-120s delay, 139dB re. 1 μPa , Thelma Biotel AS, Trondheim, Norway
219 2013) were moored at seven known distances from a receiver for 72 hours, and the number of
220 receptions was determined each day for each distance. There was a significant negative linear
221 relationship between the hourly number of receptions, relative to transmissions, and the
222 distance from a receiver ($r^2 = 0.91$, $P < 0.001$). Thus the assumption of linearity that
223 underlies this methodology was supported for the equipment within Lough Finn. Tag
224 detection ranged from 50m-450m. Based on this range testing of equipment, the maximum
225 distance at which a signal was detected at least 50% of the time was estimated at ~320 m and
226 this distance was therefore used in array design to ensure sufficient detection overlap between
227 receivers. Following Villegas-Rios et al. (2013), to select the optimal time bin we calculated
228 the mean number of receivers detecting signals from an individual tag (NR) and then we
229 averaged the number of detections from this tag across all receivers (ND) during each time
230 bin. The number of receivers (NR) detecting a tag is expected to increase asymptotically as
231 time bin size increases, whereas the number of detections (ND) increases linearly with time
232 bin size. Better position estimates are obtained when the fish is detected multiple times by
233 multiple receivers. A suitable time bin was determined when the increase in NR was $<10\%$
234 between two consecutive values and ND remained >10 (Villegas-Rios et al., 2013). The
235 resulting value was 60 minutes at which mean NR was 2.93 ± 0.4 and mean ND was $24.05 \pm$

236 14.2. This ensured adequate spatial resolution of the data while maximising temporal
237 resolution. In order to prevent bias of fish positions due to post tagging effects, all fish
238 positions recorded until 4 days after release were excluded from analysis to allow the fish to
239 recover sufficiently and resume normal movement behaviour.

240

241 *Home range analysis*

242 To avoid temporal autocorrelation and ensure independence of fish locations, Incremental
243 Area Analysis (IAA) was conducted according to Hodder et al. (2007) to gauge the number
244 of positions needed to represent maximum home range of individuals. From IAA a
245 standardised sample of 108 positions per fish was used to examine monthly home range, this
246 ensured a sufficient sample size and temporally stratified distributions of fish locations.
247 Positions in the sample were chosen arbitrarily to represent the correct proportion of the
248 number of hours in each time of day category (dawn, day, dusk, night; based on the NOAA
249 sunrise/sunset calculator (NOAA, 2014) during each month.

250

251 Kernel Utilisation Distribution (KUD) was used as a home range estimator for eels. KUD
252 estimates the intensity of area use of an animal's location over time (Worton, 1989). An
253 animal's relative frequency of occurrence in a two-dimension plane was based on stratified
254 locations throughout the study. To create 50% (core area) and 95% (home range) kernel
255 estimates Geospatial Modelling Environment (GME) was used in conjunction with ArcGIS
256 (v.10.1), KDE and isopleth tools were used to create 50% and 95% kernel distributions
257 (KUD₅₀ & KUD₉₅) for each individual fish in GME (Bandwith = LSCV, cellsize=50m). Area
258 calculations (km²) of 50% and 95% kernel estimates were undertaken in ArcGIS. These
259 polygons (containing 50% and 95% kernel estimates) were then clipped to the lake polygon
260 (using the Intersection tool in ArcGIS) to exclude any portion of the calculated home range
261 that occurred on land. To determine whether the location of monthly space use changed
262 through time, the proportion of overlap between 50% and 95 % KUDs from month to month
263 was calculated using the ArcGIS. Overlap was represented as the proportion (%) of the
264 previous month's value and represented changes in month-to-month activity space. Finally
265 depth preference was investigated for eels by employing the zonal statistics tool (ArcGIS) to
266 obtain mean depth occupancy in KUD₅₀ assuming eels maintain a benthic lifestyle within
267 their core range.

268

269 To investigate differences in home range size (KUD₅₀ and KUD₉₅) between morph type and
270 month, a linear mixed effect model (LME) was constructed. A LME was also constructed to
271 investigate the effects of mean water temperature and duration of night (minutes) on mean
272 monthly KUD size between morphs. In all LMEs “individual” was treated as a random factor
273 to account for repeated measures. Linear models were used to investigate; the effects of eel
274 length and weight on mean KUD size; to test for differences in space use overlap (KUD₉₅ &
275 KUD₅₀) for both morphs and; to investigate the influence of fish length and temperature on
276 depth preference in (KUD₅₀). Differences in depth use in the core area (KUD₅₀) between
277 morphs were compared using Welch's t-test. KUD data and KUD overlap data were
278 transformed (log and arcsine transformed respectively) prior to analysis to improve
279 normality. All model diagnostics were assessed graphically by examining the residuals for
280 heterogeneity. For LME's *P* values were generated for fixed effects using the log likelihood
281 method, by comparing models with and without the term(s) in question. All analysis was
282 conducted using the R statistical computing package.

283

284 *Movement patterns*

285 The aim of the modelling process was to determine what factors were influencing eel
286 movement within the array. Minimum displacement rates were obtained by calculating
287 straight line distance between consecutive COA's (centre of activity), converted to body
288 lengths / hour (BLh⁻¹) to standardise for body length effect. Linear mixed effect models were
289 used with a random intercept following Zuur et al. (2009) and Pinheiro & Bates (2000).
290 Including fish ID as a random effect, the model accounted for potential correlation between
291 repeated measures on each individual. Independent variables were interrogated for colinearity
292 and variance inflation scores were used to verify variable suitability. A second LME was
293 used to test the effects of average displacement rates per hour per month for individuals
294 (continuous response variable) and fixed effects included; the individual's physical
295 characteristics (length and head shape), month and hour of day. A third LME was
296 constructed using average daily displacement (m) rates as the response variable with water
297 temperature, duration of night and lunar phase as fixed effects. The lunar cycle was
298 categorised into eight phases: new moon, waxing crescent, 1st quarter, waxing gibbous, full,
299 waning gibbous, 3rd quarter, waning crescent based on the percent of the moon illuminated
300 using R package “lunar” (Lazaridis, 2015). Duration of night was measured in minutes of
301 darkness based on NOAA calculator (NOAA, 2014).

302

303 In both LME's the glmulti function, with a wrapper to enable use of a random effect
304 (Calcagno & Mazancourt 2010) was used to allow model selection of the best set of
305 independent variables up to two way interactions with minimum Akaike information criterion
306 (AIC). For both LME's final models were generated with non-significant variables dropped.
307 Model diagnostics were assessed graphically by examining the residuals for heterogeneity. *P*
308 values were generated for interactions and fixed effects using the log likelihood method, by
309 comparing models with and without the term(s) in question. All analysis was conducted using
310 R statistical computing package.

311

312 To examine the potential effects of the five fish which left the system (potentially as silver
313 eels) and the potential for behavioural differences during the period they were tracked data
314 analysis was performed excluding these fish in all tests. Excluding these five fish from the
315 analysis did not change general trends or change statistical significance in any cases.

316

Results

317

FISH DETAILS

319 In total 20 (12-broad-headed, eight narrow-headed) European eel were individually tagged
320 and tracked during this study (Table. 1). On average, an individual fish was detected on 12.2
321 ± 0.76 receivers over the study period. The detection period for tagged fish ranged from 44-
322 95 days (Table 1). Five of the 20 eels (broad headed individuals: 2315, 2329, 2335 and
323 narrow head individuals: 2334, 2322) left the array within the lake system and where last
324 detected at the receiver nearest to outflow stream. One broad headed individual (2318)
325 exhibited behavioural movements between river and lake system and was removed from
326 analysis due to the bias of this fish on home range estimates, The number of eels used in
327 analysis per morph per month is presented in Table S1 (supplementary information).

328

MORPH CLASSIFICATION

330 A model containing the first four principal components from an ordination of geometric head
331 shape was used to discriminate head shape group of tagged fish. Based on BIC scores the
332 MCLUST model EII (Fraley & Raferty 2006) supported two clusters (1 group BIC=264.8; 2
333 groups BIC=304.21, Δ BIC>10 providing support for 2 groups). The assignment of
334 individuals from cluster analysis grouping matched directly with broad and narrow head
335 classification based on HW:TL ratio assignment (*sensu* Provan and Reynolds 2000) thus
336 ensuring adequate morph categorisation (Table 1).

337

338 HOME RANGE AREA ESTIMATES

339 Home range estimates are presented as the average KUD₅₀ (core area) and KUD₉₅ (home
340 range area) (km²), per month for both broad-headed and narrow-headed morphs of eels
341 (Tables S1, S2). Over the duration of the study period broad-headed individuals displayed a
342 larger home range (mean KUD₉₅ :0.296 km² ± 0.04 S.E.) in comparison to narrow-headed
343 individuals (mean KUD₉₅ :0.143 km² ± 0.02 S.E.) (Table 2). KUD₅₀ size was not significantly
344 affected by month ($\chi^2=0.844, df=2, P=0.655$) or head shape ($\chi^2=1.87, df=1, P=0.17$). Month
345 did not have a significant effect on KUD₉₅ area estimates ($\chi^2=4.11, df=2, P=0.127$) however
346 the model revealed a significant effect of head shape ($\chi^2=11.169, df=1, P=0.0001$) indicating
347 that broad-headed individuals had larger KUD₉₅ ranges in comparison to narrow-headed
348 individuals. Mean water temperature per month had a significant positive effect on mean
349 KUD₉₅ size for both broad-headed and narrow-headed individuals ($\chi^2=10.865, df=3, p=0.012$)
350 however no effect of temperature was found on mean KUD₅₀ ($\chi^2=0.0996, df=1, P =0.565$).
351 Mean duration of night per month (minutes between sunset and sunrise) did not significantly
352 affect KUD₅₀ of eels ($\chi^2=2.40, df=1, P =0.122$). However the model revealed a significant
353 interaction between month and morph ($\chi^2=8.2286, df=3, P =0.04$) this was explained by a
354 negative effect of increasing night duration on KUD₉₅ size of narrow- headed individuals.

355

356 Body length and mass had a positive effect on KUD₉₅ of all individuals (Length $t=2.486, 2,16$
357 $P<0.05$; mass $t=3.455, 2,16 P<0.001$). Controlling for length broad-headed individuals had a
358 significantly larger KUD₉₅ than narrow-headed ($t=4.951, 1,15, P <0.05$) (Fig.3). KUD₅₀ size
359 was significantly positively affected by length of individuals ($t=3.069 2,16, P<0.001$) but no
360 differences were observed on KUD₅₀ size between morphs when controlling for length ($t=-$
361 $0.349 2,16 P>0.05$).

362

363 The amount of overlap in KUD area from month to month was used to define reuse of space
364 through time as an indication of fidelity to home ranges. Average monthly overlap of 41%
365 and 70% was observed for KUD₅₀ and KUD₉₅ respectively (Table 3). KUD₉₅ overlap
366 between consecutive months was similar in both morphs (Broad=69% Narrow = 70%). Mean
367 overlap between consecutive months of individuals' KUD₅₀ was significantly higher in broad-
368 headed individuals ($t=2.453, 3,15, P <0.05$) indicating higher site fidelity in this group. Further
369 analysis revealed a significant interaction between length of individuals and head shape on
370 KUD₅₀ overlap between months ($t=-2.838, 3,15, P <0.05$) indicating that small size narrow-

371 headed individuals exhibit higher overlap between KUD₅₀ compared with large size narrow-
372 headed individuals, this contrasts with broad headed individuals which exhibit consistent
373 overlap between core KUD's regardless of size. Differences in patterns between 50 and 95 %
374 KUDs suggest individuals maintained a consistent KUD₉₅ area that was reliably reused
375 through time, but that the extent of movement in KUD₅₀ varied in particular among larger
376 narrow-headed individuals resulting in lower degrees of overlap in core area.

377

378 The mean depth use of tagged eels at lake bed level in their estimated (KUD₅₀) was 9.0
379 meters. There was no relationship between mean depth in their KUD₅₀ and length of
380 individuals ($F=0.384_{,1,17}$ $P = 0.74$, $r^2 = 0.02$). Depth preference did not differ significantly
381 between morphs (Welch t-test: $t=-0.216$, d.f. = 14.03, $P = 0.68$). No relationship was found
382 between mean depth in core area (KUD₅₀) and water temperature ($F=0.224_{,1,67}$ $P = 0.604$, r^2
383 = 0.004) over the duration of the study.

384

385 MOVEMENT PATTERNS

386 *Diel movements*

387 The minimal adequate linear mixed model for eel diel movement revealed a significant effect
388 of hour of day on broad-headed ($\chi^2=21.013, df=1$, $P < 0.001$) and narrow headed individuals
389 ($\chi^2=5.14, df=1$, $P < 0.05$) both morphs exhibited a clear nocturnal diel pattern with higher
390 average BLh⁻¹ displacement observed during crepuscular and nocturnal periods compared to
391 during daylight (Fig.4). To explore further the relationship between diel patterns and average
392 displacement, hour of day was grouped into light categories based on NOAA calculator
393 (sunrise/sunset calculator (NOAA, 2014). Light category was found to have a significant
394 effect on average hourly displacement BLh⁻¹ of tagged fish ($F=14.54_{,3,80}$ $P < 0.001$). The
395 magnitude of effect for was greater for broad-headed eels over duration of study, with broad-
396 headed individuals having higher average hourly displacement rates than narrow-headed
397 individuals (Fig. 5). Broad-headed individuals average displacement rates were significantly
398 higher during night and dawn over other light categories ($P < 0.05$ in all cases) however no
399 significant difference was observed between dawn and night for broad-headed individuals
400 ($P > 0.05$). Narrow-headed individuals had significantly higher average displacement rates
401 during dawn and dusk over other light categories ($P < 0.05$ in all cases) however no significant
402 difference was found between dawn and dusk categories for narrow-headed individuals
403 (Fig.5).

404

405 *Environmental correlates*

406 The minimal adequate linear mixed model investigating the effects of environmental
407 correlates revealed a significant positive effect of temperature ($\chi^2=8.16$, $df=1$, $P =0.004$),
408 increasing duration of night did not have a significant effect on broad-headed individuals
409 ($\chi^2=1.803$ $df=1$, $P =0.321$) and lunar phase was found to have a significant effect ($\chi^2=19.724$,
410 $df=1$, $P =0.006$) on average daily displacement (Blh^{-1}). Broad-headed individuals' average
411 daily displacement was found to be higher during waxing lunar phases. Narrow-headed eels
412 average daily displacement was not influenced by temperature ($\chi^2=1.469$, $df=1$, $P =0.225$),
413 increasing duration of night had a significant negative effect on narrow-headed individuals
414 ($\chi^2=40.803$ $df=1$, $P =0.001$). Lunar cycle had a significant effect ($\chi^2=18.108$, $df=7$, $P =0.01$)
415 with narrow-headed individuals' average daily displacement peaking on waning lunar phases
416 (Fig.6).

417 **Discussion**

418

419 There are numerous studies detailing the extent of intra-population variation and individual
420 specialisation in traits as a result of diet and foraging (Bolnick et al., 2003; Araujo et al.,
421 2009). Detailed studies that link together spatial, temporal and individual level processes are
422 however, rare. Here we report that yellow-phase lacustrine European eels exhibit strong
423 correlations between head morphology and spatial behaviour. This study is the first to
424 provide an extensive account of home range size and movement patterns of European eel in a
425 lake system. The lake system in which our study took place allowed for continuous
426 observations of eel movements over the study period. While this study supports previous
427 findings of extensive movement patterns of yellow eels (Thiabult et al. 2007, *A. rostrata*;
428 Walker et al., 2014, *A. anguilla*) we add to the understanding of home range variation and
429 activity presenting evidence of movement patterns being influenced by diurnal and lunar
430 drivers of activity as well as behavioural differences leading to variation in space use.

431

432 These findings support current evidence that *Anguilla* species establish a home range
433 while resident during the continental stage of their lifecycle (Parker, 1995; Morrision & Secor
434 2003). Studies have documented varying home range sizes for eels in different habitat types.
435 Reported home ranges in small lakes, tidal creeks and estuaries have varied in size 0.0027
436 km^2 (LeBar et al., 1987), 0.01 km^2 (Bozeman et al., 1985), 0.16 km^2 (Thibault et al., 2007)
437 and 3.25 km^2 (Parker, 1995). Thus, the factors that drive within species variation in space use

438 and home range size remain poorly understood and examples from previous studies suggest
439 they may change depending on habitat type and individual eel characteristics.

440

441 Our results suggest that total length and weight of individuals are important
442 predictors of home range size. This finding is consistent with the allometric scaling
443 relationship between body size and space requirements (Jetz et al., 2004). Thiabault et al.
444 (2007) observed an allometric relationship between total length and increased home range for
445 American eels in tidal estuaries, comparable to results in the present study. The relationship
446 between body size and home range size may result from the increased area required to
447 provide the resources for a larger individual (Swihart et al., 1988; Pearce et al., al 2013).
448 Kramer & Chapman (1999) proposed that allometric shifts in change of diet and decreased
449 relative cost of swimming were potential drivers for this observed pattern.

450

451 Our findings indicate differences in KUD₅₀ and KUD₉₅ areas between eels within
452 the lake. A KUD₅₀ is an eel's core/high use area whereas KUD₉₅ is an eel's maximum range.
453 Head morphology was found to be a significant predictor of eel's maximum range in this
454 study. Our study provides the first empirical evidence that this observed morphological
455 variation in eels leads to significant differences in home range size. Over the entire study
456 period broad-headed individuals were found to have a significantly larger home range than
457 that of narrow-headed individuals. Variation in a space use as a result of different morph type
458 has been observed for other predatory lacustrine fish (Kobler et al., 2009). The increase in
459 home range size could be in part, due to the higher mobility and greater space use
460 requirements of fish prey that are targeted by broad headed individuals in comparison to more
461 localised prey availability of invertebrates for narrow head individuals. In terms of lacustrine
462 eels KUD₅₀ core areas can be deemed as resting and or foraging areas and these areas do not
463 differ significantly between broad headed and narrow headed individuals. In comparison to
464 KUD₉₅ (maximum range) which may represent foraging excursions or searching for prey
465 which was found to be significantly larger in broad headed individuals and is potentially as a
466 result of the movement of fish prey between larger areas in comparison to invertebrate prey
467 of narrow headed individuals which would be more localised.

468

469 Overall home ranges remained stable over the study period for both morphs with
470 monthly comparisons of range shift revealing mean home range overlap for broad-headed of
471 69% and 70% for narrow headed individuals. The observed home range stability from this

472 study supports findings of site fidelity within eels (Parker 1995 ; Baras et al., 1998; Beguer-
473 Pon et al., 2014). Homing behaviour has been observed for both *A.anguilla* and *A.rostrata*
474 respectively (Tesch, 1967, Lamoth et al. 2000). Tesch (2003) found that burrows and cavities
475 were utilised as resting places and shelter for the eels and studies have documented the
476 fidelity of tagged eels to discrete refuges (Ford & Mercer, 1986; McGovern & McCarthy,
477 1992). Walker et al. (2014) demonstrated that estuarine eels return to the same site every
478 night which also support the findings of site fidelity from this study. The high level of site
479 fidelity observed among eels may in turn contribute to maintenance of habitat associated
480 phenotypic divergence.

481

482 Although KUD₉₅ remained relatively stable throughout the study period, significant
483 variation in high-use core areas (KUD₅₀) was observed between different morphs, in terms of
484 continued space use over time. Narrow-headed individuals exhibited a significantly higher
485 core range overlap in comparison to broad headed individuals. We hypothesize that the
486 differences observed in core area space use is a direct result of foraging behaviour. Given the
487 feeding strategy of broad-headed individuals as ambush feeders, they are likely to consume
488 large meals and remain immobile for long periods while digesting (Fu et al., 2009) and may
489 have optimal feeding locations “ambush points” where an encounter with prey fish is high,
490 therefore increasing spatial overlap and thus site fidelity to high use areas. In comparison,
491 lower overlap in core area use by narrow headed individuals may be a direct result of
492 resource availability and the need to move will be higher for insect feeders due to patch
493 depletion (Pyke, 1984).

494

495 In this study, mean depth zone occupancy by individual eels in a high intensity area
496 (the most utilised area KUD₅₀) ranged from 1.5m – 22m but averaged 9m, assuming eels
497 adopted a benthic lifestyle. This study could not identify drivers of depth occupancy in eels.
498 Length, morphotype (broad, narrow) and temperature did not significantly affect depth
499 occupancy in the high intensity area of use. Yokouchi et al., (2009) found catches of eels in
500 an Irish lake were lowest from 0.5 – 5m and greatest at the deepest depth range 22.5-25m,
501 Anguillid eels are generally thought to adapt to the environment in which they reside
502 therefore the depth distribution of *A.anguilla* in lakes may depend on the physical and
503 biological characteristics of each lake as well as the occurrence of oxygen-depleted layers
504 which may occur in thermally stratified lakes. Unfortunately, dissolved oxygen data were not

505 available in this study, but since Lough Finn is oligotrophic and a cool climate, it is unlikely
506 that oxygen depletion of deeper waters occurred.

507

508 While the European eel is believed to be relatively sedentary while in freshwater
509 (Riley et al., 2011), studies have revealed that eels also can utilise large areas and undertake
510 regular movements in estuarine environments (Hedger et al., 2010; Walker et al., 2014;
511 Beguer-Pon et al., 2015). The substantial levels of movement and clear diel activity patterns
512 found in the study reported here imply active foraging strategies within their stable home
513 ranges. Rosten et al. (2013) found that in spring and summer yellow eel in a southern English
514 chalk stream exited a side channel and returned at dawn, presumably foraging in the main
515 channel by night and using the side channel as daytime refuge habitat. The strong influence
516 of light conditions has been noted in other studies; telemetry studies of American eels in
517 estuaries and salt marshes demonstrated increased activity at night (Helfman et al., 1983,
518 Thiabault et al., 2007, Hedger et al., 2010, Beguer-Pon et al., 2015). European eels have also
519 been found to be more active at night in estuarine environments with the start and end time of
520 movements being strongly associated with sunset and sunrise respectively (Walker et al.,
521 2014). The results from this study further support this pattern of strongly nocturnal and
522 crepuscular activity. Hedger et al. (2010) suggested nocturnal movements to be indicative of
523 fish hiding in the substratum during the day and moving into the water column to forage
524 under the cover of darkness. While our study confirmed that yellow eels are more active at
525 night. Interestingly activity of narrow-headed individuals' decreased with increasing night
526 duration and the resulting shortening of crepuscular periods. This indicates a strong
527 relationship between dawn and dusk periods among tagged narrow-headed individuals.

528

529 Lunar phase was also shown to be a significant predictor of eel movement in this
530 study. It has been well documented that there are intrinsic links between eel behaviour and
531 lunar phase (McGovern and McCarthy, 1992; Baras et al., 1998; Hedger et al., 2010). Lunar
532 periodicity has been thought to influence the onset of the spawning migration of anguillid
533 eels (Durif & Elie 2008). It has been shown that marine fish species show strong affinity to
534 certain lunar phases (Henderson *et al.* 2014). However given the strong relationship between
535 tidal currents and lunar phase it is hard to tease apart the true effect of the lunar cycle in these
536 cases, unlike in lake environments. Interestingly in this study morph activity peaked on
537 different lunar phases (Fig.6), significant increase in rate of movement for broad-headed
538 individuals was observed on waxing lunar phases in contrast to highest activity on waning

539 phases for narrow headed individuals. There is a paucity of data on yellow eel movement and
540 the potential influence of lunar phases, Hedger et al. (2010) reported reduced areal ranges
541 under high lunar illumination (full moon), but no effect was identified on absolute ground
542 speed. Lamothe et al. (2000) identified homing during the new moon and Baras et al. (1998)
543 & McGovern and McCarthy (1992) observed higher yellow eel activity under full moon
544 events. The synchronicity in movement of eels in relation to lunar events is similar to that
545 observed for marine species (Henderson et al., 2014). This study shows that there may be
546 links between foraging activity and lunar periodicity in freshwater eels. For example the
547 moonlight at the full moon is known to depress the activity of benthic invertebrates (e.g.
548 Neveu & Echaubard, 1975) and thus may explain the rapid increase in narrow headed eel
549 activity in the waxing lunar phases after full moon events. Temperature had a positive effect
550 on average home range size for both morphs and daily displacement of broad-headed eels but
551 not narrow-headed individuals. The influence of temperature on eel movement has been
552 noted by Hedger et al. (2010) who found that eels swam faster and covered larger areas when
553 water was warm. Typically eels are more active at a higher water temperature (Tesch, 2003).

554

555 In conclusion, the present study indicates that the movement patterns of lake
556 dwelling European eels are complex and can be influenced by foraging behaviour as well as
557 predictable environmental factors. Further studies of yellow eel behaviour and habitat use
558 should take into account behavioural differences and whether the relationship between
559 morphology and spatial patterns is observed in other ecosystems. Given the urgent need to
560 design effective surveys of population size and distribution of eels, the information provided
561 from these data can aid in survey design and the implementation of effective conservation
562 strategies for this endangered fish (Jacoby & Gollock 2014).

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Acknowledgments

This work was supported by funding from the European Union’s INTERREG IVA Programme (project 2859 ‘IBIS’) managed by the Special EU programmes Body. The authors would like to thank John Boyle of the Lough Finn Angling Association and staff at the Loughs Agency for technical assistance. The authors would also like to thank IBIS students & staff who helped with field work and technical assistance.

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863 *FIGURE 1.* Lough Finn and river finn outflow stream, receiver positons (black dots) and
864 omnidirectional detection range from acoustic listening station (black circles).

865 *FIGURE 2* Landmark placement for digitizing head shape. 1) most anterior point of the snout; 2) left
866 rostral nostril; 3) right rostral nostril; 4) outermost jaw in line with rostral border of eye; 5) rostral
867 border of eye (left); 6) outermost jaw in line with rostral border of eye (right); 6) rostral border of eye
868 right; 8) caudal border of eye (left); 9) caudal border of eye right.

869 *FIGURE 3.* Relationship between home range size (KUD_{95}) and length of individuals (log
870 transformed), broad heads black circles and associated trend line solid black line and narrow heads
871 hollow circles and associated trend line dashed line

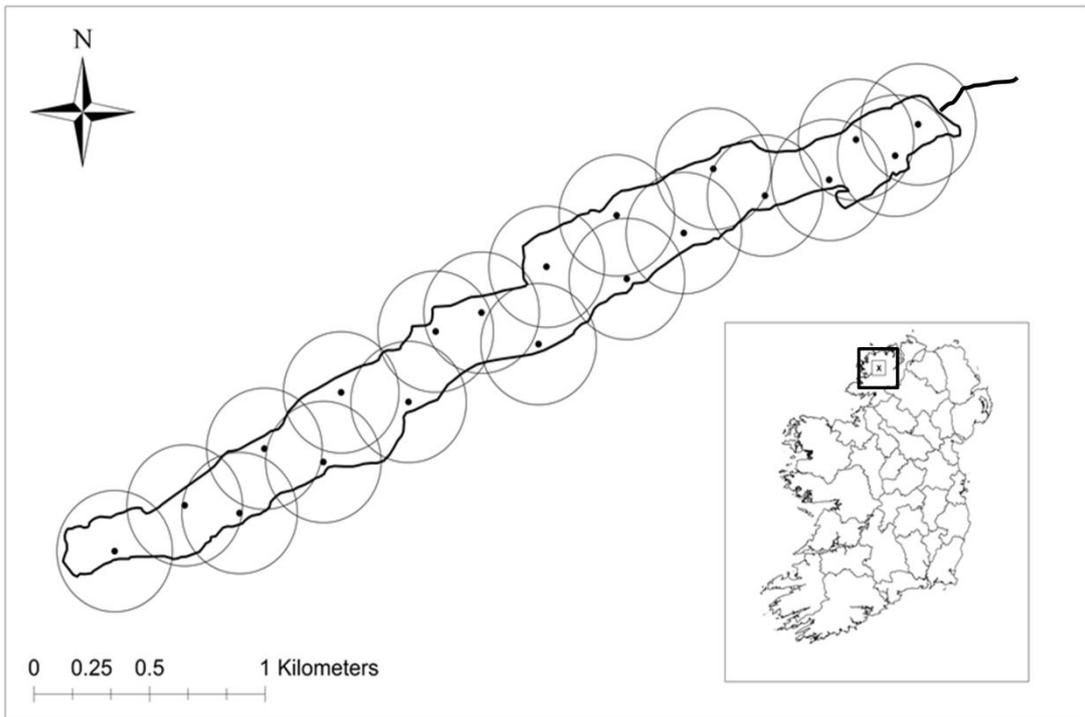
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873 *FIGURE 4:* The average displacement rate (BLh^{-1}) per hour (facet by month) for broad (B=grey line)
874 and narrow-headed (N=black line) individuals. Crepuscular periods are represented by light shading
875 (range = min and max sunrise/sunset for each month, NOAA 2014).

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877 *FIGURE 5:* The average hourly displacement rates (BLh^{-1}) for broad-headed (white box) and
878 narrow-headed (grey box) individuals in different light categories. B = Broad-headed N= Narrow-
879 headed

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881 *FIGURE 6* Average daily displacement (BLh^{-1}) of tagged individuals grouped by morph type during
882 lunar phases. Error bars ± 1 standard error.

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Fig 1.

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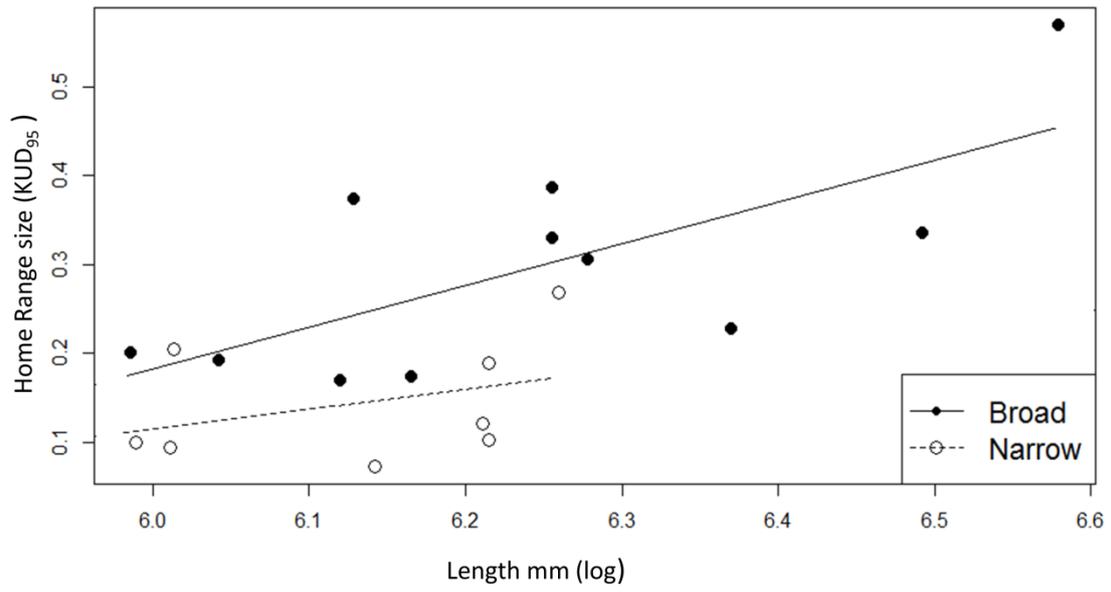
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925 *Fig 2.*

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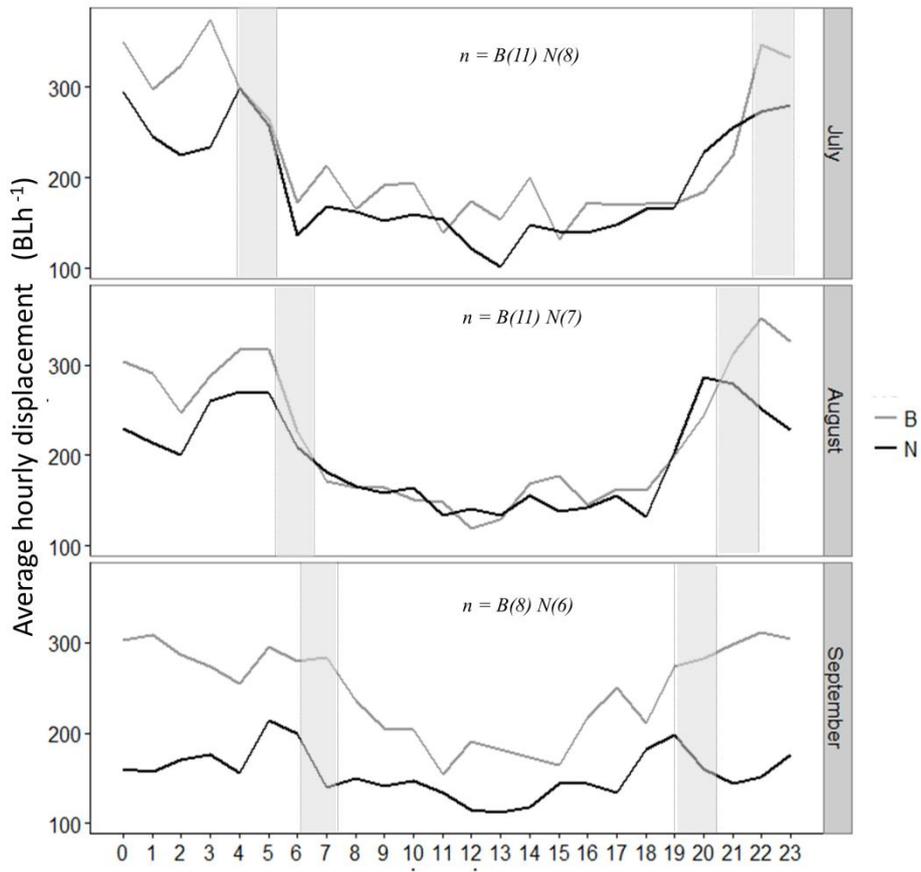
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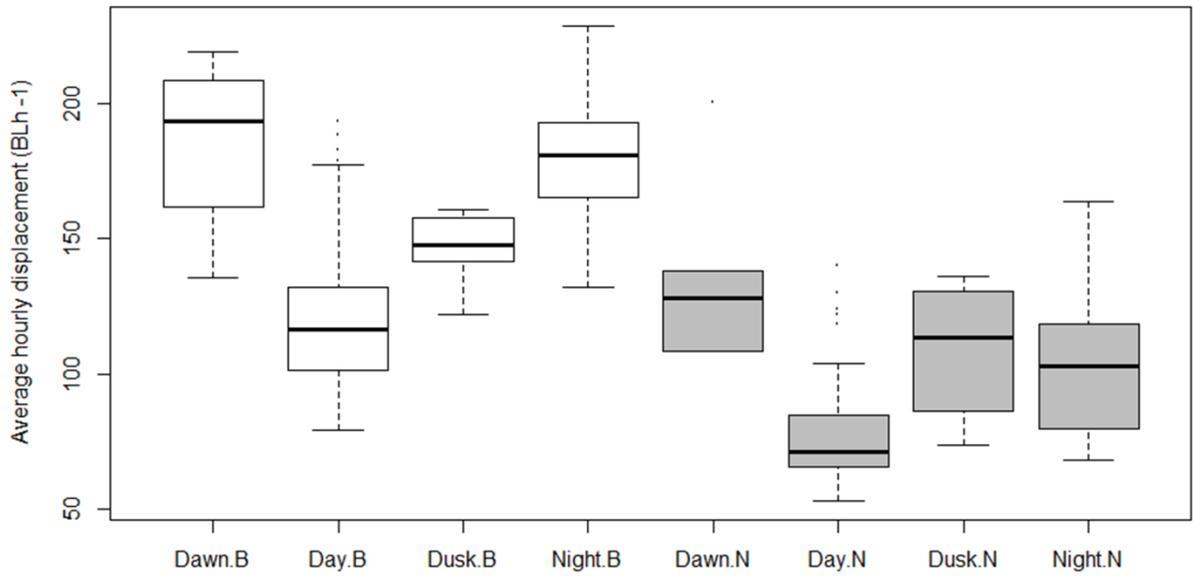
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Fig 3.



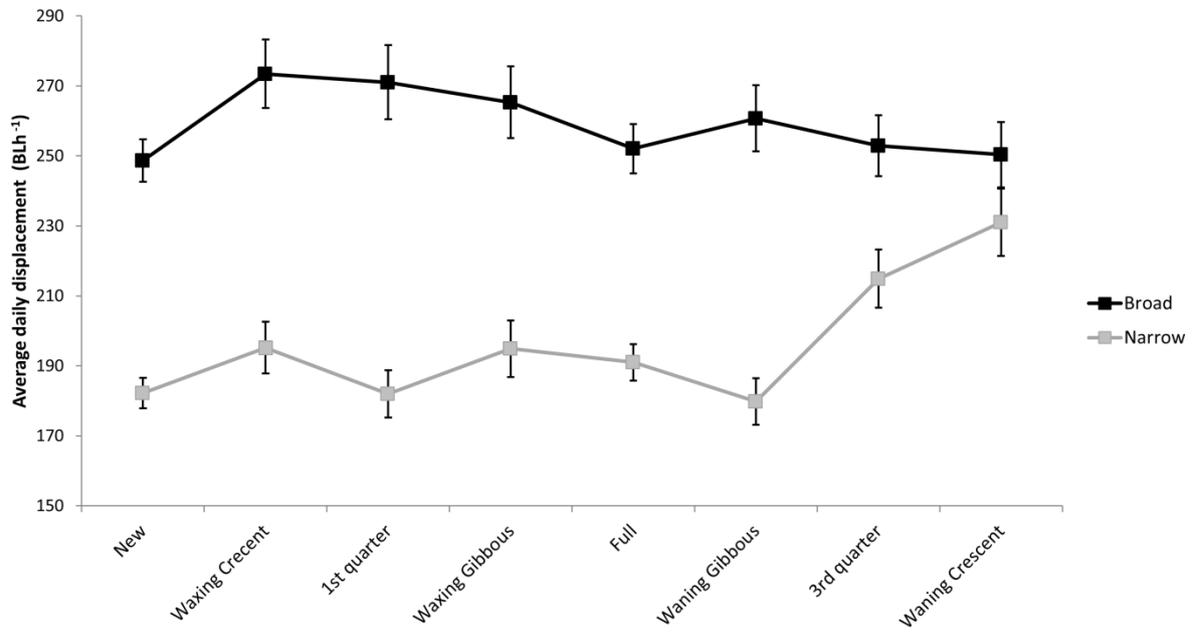
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Fig 4



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943 *Fig 5.*
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Table 1. Characteristics of the 20 individuals tagged and detection span. B=broad-headed, N=narrow-headed. 2318* excluded from analysis

Fish ID	Release Date	TL (mm)	Weight (g)	Detection Span (days)	MCLUST group	Morphotype	HW:TL
2318*	02/07/2013	390	90	26	1	B	0.038
2327	02/07/2013	398	101	91	1	B	0.048
2315	02/07/2013	421	117	53	1	B	0.036
2329	02/07/2013	455	154	59	1	B	0.044
2323	27/06/2013	459	154	95	1	B	0.048
2320	02/07/2013	476	160	91	1	B	0.040

2325	27/06/2013	521	320	95	1	B	0.047
2340	02/07/2013	521	306	91	1	B	0.046
2337	27/06/2013	533	243	95	1	B	0.043
2326	02/07/2013	584	371	90	1	B	0.050
2332	02/07/2013	660	540	91	1	B	0.048
2335	02/07/2013	720	602	44	1	B	0.046
2333	27/06/2013	399	130	91	2	N	0.028
2339	02/07/2013	408	102	91	2	N	0.025
2302	02/07/2013	409	94	90	2	N	0.022
2303	27/06/2013	465	218	95	2	N	0.026
2322	27/06/2013	498	201	95	2	N	0.029
2330	02/07/2013	500	214	91	2	N	0.032
2336	02/07/2013	500	224	90	2	N	0.024
2334	02/07/2013	523	216	52	2	N	0.027

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Table 2: Mean Kernel Utilisation Distribution 95 and Kernel Utilisation Distribution 50 per month and overall mean for the duration of tagging period.

Month	Broad KUD ₅₀	Broad KUD ₉₅	Narrow KUD ₅₀	Narrow KUD ₉₅
July	0.066	0.341	0.031	0.179
August	0.113	0.251	0.022	0.112
September	0.048	0.292	0.017	0.103
Overall mean (S.E)	0.076 (0.012)	0.295 (0.016)	0.023(0.003)	0.131(0.16)

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Table 3: Temporal stability denoted by percentage home range overlap for home range Mean Kernel Utilisation Distribution 95 and core range Kernel Utilisation Distribution 50 between months over the study period. (Refer to text for statistical analysis). B= broad-headed and N= narrow-headed.

I.D	TL	Morphotype	KUD ₅₀ (Jul-Aug)	KUD ₅₀ (Aug-Sep)	Mean monthly KUD ₅₀ overlap (50%)	KUD ₉₅ (Jul-Aug)	KUD ₉₅ (Aug-Sep)	Mean monthly KUD ₉₅ overlap (95%)
2315	421	B	62	-	62	62	-	62
2320	476	B	73	72	72.5	74	85	79.5
2323	459	B	29	49	39	36	53	44.5
2325	521	B	6	86	46	61	89	75
2326	584	B	29	64	46.5	73	86	79.5
2327	398	B	32	32	32	58	78	68
2329	455	B	64	-	64	74	-	74
2332	660	B	62	79	70.5	81	63	72
2335	720	B	28	-	28	59	-	59
2337	533	B	66	56	61	87	59	73
2340	521	B	50	76	63	75	86	80.5
2302	409	N	37	52	44.5	60	65	62.5
2303	465	N	52	68	60	88	71	79.5
2322	498	N	26	-	26	79	-	79
2330	500	N	0	19	9.5	54	61	57.5
2333	399	N	21	52	36.5	74	69	71.5
2334	523	N	10	-	10	65	-	65
2336	500	N	0	0	0	90	49	69.5
2339	408	N	61	58	59.5	84	80	82

Supplementary Tables

Table S1: Fish locations (n=108) stratified proportionally in each time of day category over the three month study period. The number (*n*) of individual eels from each morph; Broad or Narrow for which home range was calculated for each month.

Month	Dawn	Day	Dusk	Night	Broad (<i>n</i>)	Narrow (<i>n</i>)
July	4	66	5	33	11	8
August	3	61	3	41	11	7
September	3	52	3	50	8	6

Table S2: . Summary of spatial utilisation information for *A. anguilla*. KUD₉₅= kernel utilisation distribution based on 95% of the positions (home range km²); KUD₅₀= kernel utilisation distribution based on 50% of the positions (core area km²). B= broad-headed and N= narrow-headed.

Code	Jul50	Jul95	Aug50	Aug95	Sep50	Sep95	Morph
2315	0.026	0.219	0.017	0.164	-	-	B
2320	0.058	0.164	0.032	0.165	0.035	0.193	B
2323	0.227	0.816	0.028	0.186	0.017	0.119	B
2325	0.079	0.520	0.067	0.315	0.065	0.325	B
2326	0.008	0.196	0.002	0.234	0.012	0.238	B
2327	0.053	0.251	0.008	0.166	0.064	0.185	B
2329	0.025	0.164	0.023	0.174	-	-	B
2332	0.068	0.400	0.057	0.228	0.045	0.377	B
2335	0.099	0.556	0.914	0.582	-	-	B
2337	0.032	0.214	0.027	0.186	0.079	0.517	B
2340	0.052	0.250	0.072	0.355	0.070	0.383	B
Mean(S.E)	0.066 (0.02)	0.341 (0.06)	0.113(0.08)	0.251(0.03)	0.048(0.01)	0.292(0.04)	
2302	0.065	0.369	0.027	0.157	0.020	0.086	N
2303	0.024	0.130	0.031	0.152	0.017	0.082	N
2322	0.001	0.088	0.002	0.058	-	-	N
2330	0.022	0.171	0.021	0.132	0.001	0.003	N
2333	0.027	0.122	0.030	0.090	0.018	0.087	N
2334	0.047	0.268	-	-	-	-	N
2336	0.033	0.186	0.025	0.106	0.035	0.274	N
2339	0.033	0.103	0.018	0.090	0.011	0.087	N
Mean(S.E)	0.031(0.001)	0.179(0.03)	0.022(0.003)	0.112(0.01)	0.017(0.004)	0.103 (0.03)	

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